GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:528
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
OO EXPORT AND IMPORT OF IRON ORE
Khan Shri Sunil;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of various minerals including iron ore exported and the. foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last thiree years and the current year, country-wise, mineral-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to re strict/ban the export of iron ore,particularly higti grade iron ore from the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether steel manufacturers are facing difficulties due to unavailability of indigenous iron ore, particularly high grade iron ore and resorting to import Of iron ore;

(e) if so,the quantity and value of mineral particularly iron ore imported during each of the last thiree years and the current year; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove such difficulties being faced by steel manufacturers?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INTDUSTRY (SHRI JATRAM RAMESH)

(a) The details of total quantity exported and the foreign exchange earned in respect of major minerals during each of the last three years,and the current year,country-wise and mineral-wise is at Statement 1.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There are no difficulties for steel manufacturers on account of unavailability of indigenous ore,as iron ore which is surplus after meeting the domestic demand is only exported.However,some sponge iron producers and pig iron producers are reporting problems in getting iron ore supply at affordable prices thereby affecting their economic viability .

(e) There are no restrictions on import of iron ore and some marginal quantities appear to have been imported.The quantity and value of iron OTG imported during each of the last three years is at Statement 2.The details of iron ore imports during the current year are not available.

(f) Since the domestic price of high grade ore is the main issue as far as steel manufacturers are concerned, Ministry of Steel has taken up the matter with Ministry of Mines to impress upon the iron ore producers to enter into Long Term Agreements with domestic iron &. steel producers for assured supply of iron ore with a suitable price mechanism.